I claim:

1.   A method for assigning an item number to an item from a list of item numbers in a classification set, comprising:

        creating a secondary classification set defining a new classification field;

        mapping selected item numbers from the list of item numbers in said classification set onto said secondary classification set;

        creating a decision tree for said selected item numbers; and

        creating a questionnaire corresponding to said decision tree.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said selected item numbers comprises a subset of said item numbers.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein said mapping selected item numbers comprises providing a transfer function, said transfer function enabling deciding, for each item number in said classification set, whether it should be included in said secondary classification set.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein each of said item numbers in said list of item numbers further includes an item description, and wherein said mapping selected item numbers further comprises, at least for some of the item numbers, changing said item description.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein said questionnaire is constructed in the form of a computer user interface.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein said classification set comprises one of the Harmonized Tariff System (HTS), the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), and a country specific HTS.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein said secondary classification set comprises a subset of said one of HTS, HTSUS, and country specific HTS.

8.   The method of claim 5, wherein said user interface further comprises a display field for applicable regulations.

9.   The method of claim 5, wherein said user interface further includes a keyword field for keyword search of said decision tree.

10.   The method of claim 5, wherein said user interface comprises hypertext.

11.   A method for assigning a tariff number from the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS") to an item to be imported, comprising:

    creating a secondary classification set;

    mapping selected tariff numbers from the HTSUS onto said secondary classification set;

    creating a decision tree for said selected item numbers; and

    creating a questionnaire corresponding to said decision tree.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein said secondary classification set comprises a subset of said HTS.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein said questionnaire comprises questions requiring no knowledge of the HTS.

14.   The method of claim 11, wherein said secondary classification set comprises blocks of classification items, each block corresponding to a different item class.

15.   The method of claim 13, wherein said questionnaire is constructed in the form of a computer user interface comprising hypertext.

16.   The method of claim 11, further comprising using a company's business information to construct a transfer function, and using said transfer function to perform said mapping selected tariff numbers.

17.   The method of claim 16, wherein said secondary classification set comprises blocks of classification items, each block corresponding to different item class, and wherein said transfer function maps selected items from said HTS onto a selected one of said blocks of classification items.

18.   The method of claim 11, wherein said decision tree is constructed in the form of an organization chart.

19.   A computer program stored on a computer readable medium, comprising: at least one classification block, said classification block having

selected HTS tariff numbers mapped thereto from a country specific HTS;

a decision tree for said classification blocks;

a user interface enabling progression in said decision tree; wherein when operated, said computer program causes a computer to perform the functions comprising:

enabling a user of said computer to assign an HTS tariff number to an import item by performing the functions comprising:

asking the user to respond to questions relating to the characteristics of the imported item in order to progress through the decision tree and to arrive at an appropriate tariff number.

20.   The computer program of said claim 18, wherein said classification blocks are expandable.

21.   The computer program of claim 19, wherein the tariff numbers mapped onto said classification blocks comprise a subset of said country specific HTS tariff numbers.